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SOURCE Ch'un-chung Jih-pao.

SUMMARY OF 1950 ACTIVITIES IN TSINGHAI
AND ESSENTIAL TASKS FOR 1951

(Reported by Chairman Chao Shou-shan at the Third Session, Northwest Military and Administrative Committee)

In his summary of 1950 activities in Tsinghai, Chairman Chao Shou-shan states that when the Americans landed at Iuch'on, the people were disturbed by the false rumors spread by the counterrevolutionaries to the effect that "Heavens may change." [The characters used, (變天), mean a change in political weather or regime.]

During 1950, Tsinghai made some progress in the Resist America, Aid Korea Movement, suppression of counterrevolutionaries, veterinary and public health work, agriculture, animal husbandry, and water conservancy. Food production increased by 237,642 piculs, or 30,000 piculs more than the original amount stipulated. In the livestock industry, work was limited to the reorganization of existing ranches and the prevention of epizootic diseases.

Various activities began in 1950 in Tsinghai will be continued and intensified during 1951. Food production is expected to be increased by 2.5 percent over that of 1950. People's armed units are to be reorganized, trained, and increased to expand vigilance against counterrevolutionary activities. Land reform will be started in the winter of 1951 in areas where rent reduction has been effected in 1950. Rent reduction will be carried out in areas where it has not been effected during 1950. Efforts will be increased to bring more unity among various nationalities in Tsinghai.

- 1 -

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I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 1950

A. Resist America, Aid Korea Movement

A systematic propaganda campaign against the criminal activities of US imperialism was begun throughout Tsinghai at the end of May 1950 in accordance with the then current situation. A branch of the Committee for World Peace was established to launch the Stockholm Peace Appeal. By the end of September 1950, approximately one third of the total population of Tsinghai, or 456,305 people, had signed the appeal.

But when the Americans landed at Inch'on, the people's feelings were suddenly disturbed when counterrevolutionary elements spread false rumors that "the Heavens may change." Some cadres wanted to go home; some even changed from their uniforms to civilian dress. We used all kinds of propaganda methods to discredit such rumors. These methods included mass meetings concerning rent reduction, the grain-collection drive, and the campaign against counterrevolutionaries. Later, when news arrived that the Chinese volunteers and the People's Army of Korea had reoccupied P'yongyang, celebration meetings were held in every hsien. As a consequence, the people's confidence was soon restored; they no longer feared that "the Heavens may change."

For example, one farmer in Hu-chu Hsien said: "The influence of the Army of Liberation is firmly fixed in people's minds; it will never fade." Most peasants now have a clearer notion of US imperialism, bandits, and special agents. The head of the Second Hsiang, First Ch'u, Min-ho Hsien, said: "The people's armies of China and Korea are fighting aggression. They have the support of the people of the world. Only the devil believes that the army of aggression will not fail."

People all over the province voluntarily donated funds and wrote letters to the Chinese volunteers and the People's Army of Korea. They were eager to pay land taxes in grain after the rent-reduction movement had been launched. In Hsi-ning Shih, Huang-yuan Hsien and Min-ho Hsien, the peasants raised red banners on which were written: "Give Grain Willingly to Resist America and Aid Korea"; and when they stood in line to pay their taxes with grain, the people shouted the slogan, "Produce With Greater Effort to Support the People's Armies of China and Korea." Some peasants called the grain they contributed to the government "grain for resisting America and aiding Korea."

People from industrial and commercial circles in Hsi-ning launched a demonstration on New Year's Day 1951, and signed a Patriotic Compact consisting of seven articles. This was followed by a demonstration of 30,000 Tibetans and Lamas from T'a-erh Temple on 19 February, and a rally of 14,000 Moslems at the end of February. On 8 March, Women's Day, 20,000 women from all classes, including nuns, staged a big demonstration. Cadres in general were convinced of the reactionary nature of US imperialism and its incurable weaknesses. They voluntarily increased their working hours, studied current affairs, and contributed money for the people's armies of China and Korea.

All this indicates that the people of Tsinghai have begun to experience a contemptuous and indignant feeling toward US imperialism, and thus the movement to resist the America and aid Korea was introduced very successfully. However, some problems still remain unsolved. There are some areas to which the movement has not spread, particularly areas inhabited by nomads. To spread such a movement, we must make a greater effort to accomplish the objectives which offer the best solutions to the real problems encountered by the people. For instance, one means of realizing our goal to popularize the movement of resistance to US imperialism and aid to Korea might be found in our efforts to provide better medical service for the people.

- 2 -

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B. Restoration of Farming and Livestock Industries

The liberation of Tsinghai has freed the people from the unreasonably high taxes, collections, and all other conscriptions imposed by the former reactionary regime. The retreat of Ma Pu-fang's bandits released 80,000 men, thus adding to the labor force. In the spring of 1950, the government started to encourage mutual lending and borrowing among the people. Such transactions amounted to 49,819 piculs of grain. The government gave out 20,629 piculs of grain for famine relief. As a result of this lending and government relief, the food problem for 195,000 people was solved, and enough seed for the 346,000 mou of land were found. Four dikes, Chieh-fang, Ho-p'ing, Jen-min, and P'ing-an, were reinforced. The reinforcement of these dikes means the irrigation of an additional 40,000 mou of land. Mutual assistance in the form of labor exchange in some villages with the result that labor productivity increased greatly. Under government encouragement, more peasants began to use fertilizer.

1. Agriculture

Food production in 1950 increased 237,642 piculs, or 30,000 piculs more than the original amount stipulated. The main weakness in agricultural work was due to the fact that the various policies have not been carried out in the right spirit. Some people forced their loans upon others, while some obtained loans by coercive methods. Because our cadres had no experience, they have not been able to mobilize the masses fully. Some cases of labor exchange existed merely in name and offered no benefits to the people. Agricultural techniques are still backward.

2. Livestock

Because of the destruction inflicted by bandits under the leadership of Ma in the past, and because of some practical difficulties which have continued to exist since the liberation, the livestock industry faces a difficult recovery problem. Expansion is out of the question for the present.

Our work in 1950 was limited to the reorganization of existing ranches and the prevention of disease. Three former ranches have been converted to a domestic animal station, a camel-breeding station, and a native livestock-breeding station. Sheep, cows, donkeys and horses of better breeds were bought for the breeding station. An investigation of epizootic diseases was conducted in some parts of the nomadic stock-farming areas of Ch'ia-pu-ch'ia, Hai-yen, Huan-hai, Wei-yuan, and Ch'i-lien-shan. Cadres were trained in the techniques of cattle raising. Various kinds of serums totaling 4,500,000 cubic centimeters were produced for animal inoculation.

Emergency treatment for the prevention of epidemic diseases was initiated in Kung-ho, and nine other hsien. About 150,000 head received inoculation. In addition, tax assessment in the nomadic stock-farming areas was lowered and the purchase price of wool was raised. But we should continue to stimulate the enthusiasm of the livestock people to restore and develop the cattle industry.

C. Rent Reduction

The rent-reduction drive was begun on an experimental basis in October 1950 in selected areas. In November, all hsien in the farming region launched a movement to reduce rent on a full or partial scale according to local conditions. Some achievements were made in the 3 months ending February 1951. The drive was carried out in 253 of the 320 hsien in 12 shih and hsien, that is, in 85.47 percent of the total number of hsien. According to incomplete estimates, there are 367 household units of landlords and rich peasants, and 22,772 of tenant farmers. The amount of reduced rent reached 17,587.4 piculs of grain, or an average of 0.772 picul for each tenant farmer household.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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50X1-HUM

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Generally speaking, our policy was to build up the political superiority of the peasants, mainly the poor peasants and tenant farmers, and to destroy the lofty authority of the landlord class that has existed for thousands of years. We also endeavored to promote and train a great number of leaders among the people to establish our influence. By virtue of the rent-reduction drive, our other activities progressed also. For instance, the peasant's association, the militia organization, and local government control were all improved. Grain-collection quotas were filled, and the burden was evenly distributed. A great amount of real property was discovered, but remained unclaimed. All people of the working class were united and politically awakened.

Cultural and educational works made good progress among the masses. Adult winter classes were attended by 85,000, almost half of them women. Bandit groups were largely wiped out and many secret bandits and special agents were discovered. Civic order has been restored. People are prepared to boost production. The villages have a new outlook. Many cadres are beginning to realize the importance of working with and learning from the masses. Various classes were held in many hsien to give instruction on government policy and regulations. However, a small number of cadres did not grasp the essence of our policy. They were confused and afraid to mobilize the peasants against the landlord class.

In the early phase of the rent-reduction drive the goal was achieved through peaceful compromise. But in some cases it was determined arbitrarily without due consideration of the cost factor. In areas where there are no landlords (hence no possibility of utilizing rent reduction to mobilize the people), some cadres collected grain from the people without using incentive methods; without helping the people to solve their real problems with a view to their being more willing to contribute grain to the government. There are still landlords and special agents who sabotage and undermine the government either openly or secretly. This shows that our mass movement is still in its infant stage; we must continue to advance.

D. Suppression of Counterrevolutionaries

Tsinghai is inhabited by several different groups of people. Deep conflicts existed among them because of the misgivings toward the reactionary government in the past, particularly such incidents as the massacres of Moslems by T'so Chung-t'ang and by Sun Lien-chung.

Furthermore, the blundering propaganda of the Chiang and Ma bandits greatly intimidated the Moslems. Fear of retaliation which might lead to total extinction in that area caused the Moslems to regard us with great suspicion when we first entered Tsinghai. Indeed, they had reason to be suspicious because, at that time, Ma Pu-fung's troops were not entirely disarmed and plots still existed -- for instance, the armed revolt led by Ma Ying in November 1949. Therefore, we must exercise great caution to advance steadily. We must also follow the principle of unity among different groups of people, and we must distinguish a racial dispute from a counterrevolutionary plot.

Up to April 1950, we had wiped out many groups of bandits. The sabotage activities were thus exposed, the principal offenders apprehended, and the time seemed to have come for us to punish the counterrevolutionaries severely. After being tried in public, four bandit chiefs (Chiang Chi-ying and others) were executed. Such action gave great encouragement to people who had participated in the campaign against counterrevolutionary activities. Such action showed the people that the government is not unconditionally lenient, and that it resorts to execution when necessary. As a result, the incidents that were prevalent prior to April 1950 (most of them between 20 March and 10 April), such as the murder of guards, shootings, armed robberies, etc., suddenly came to an end. However, counterrevolutionary activities occurred again after the outbreak of the Korean war.

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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50X1-HUM

(especially after the US Army landed at Inch'on). The bandit counterrevolutionaries who collaborated with international spies believed "the Third World War has come, and it is now time to make an offensive attack."

As a result of our suppression efforts, we wiped out the Wu-lung (五龍) Battalion (600 persons) of the Anti-Communist National Salvation Army and uncovered organizations of the Northwest Revolutionary Society. We also rounded up the special agents, Ch'en Yen (陳彦), and P'an Shih-chieh (潘世傑), who had been sent from Hong Kong and Taiwan, and we executed 35 chief counterrevolutionaries.

With respect to the suppression of counterrevolutionary activities, our experiences in 1950 may be summarized as follows:

1. In areas which had for a long time been ruled by the reactionary regime and thus had developed a deep feudalistic background, our attempts at suppression were not successful when there were no strong local armed forces -- a People's Liberation Army, and a people's government working in close cooperation.
2. When we had no sound policy or did not properly execute policy, we were not able to take the initiative in isolating the enemy, winning over his followers, and dealing him a telling blow. To avoid committing errors against the innocent, thereby placing ourselves in a defensive position, we found it advisable to punish first the chief gangsters who were commonly hated by all the native peoples.
3. We have found that we should improve public security, the judicial and people's inspectors organizations. We should train more cadres and set up strong armed forces, master the techniques of underground resistance and conduct a thorough investigation in order to be able to hit the real enemy hard and in time.
4. We have found that we should mobilize the people to watch and destroy the enemy. To execute a member of a minority group, we must obtain the consent of the people of that group. Isolation of reactionary counterrevolutionaries is necessary before destroying them. Their crime must be exposed to the people so that our action will not arouse alarm or fear among the people.
5. We have found that we must coordinate measures against counterrevolutionary activities with the other major activities of each period.

II. ESSENTIAL TASKS FOR 1951

Production, Education, and Public Health

Emphasis is to be put on agriculture and the livestock industry, improvements in irrigation and agricultural techniques, especially through the introduction of intensive cultivation. Food production is expected to increase 2.5 percent above the figure for 1950 (an increase of 106,133 piculs). Protection of forests and reforestation should be encouraged. More epizootic disease-prevention stations and mobile veterinary teams should be established. Livestock can be improved by raising better fodder. Industry and transportation systems must be constructed wherever possible.

In addition to strengthening international trade and aiding private enterprises, the government will foster people's cooperatives on a selective basis to expand trade. Price stabilization is one of our important political objectives.

- 5 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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Winter classes for adult education will improve the work of factory personnel. More special schools must be established for the education of workers and peasants. Cultural and arts activities among the masses will be improved. Newspaper reading clubs and adult classes will be organized in the villages. The Tsinghai public schools' training of native cadres will be increased. The technical standards in medicine will be raised, epidemic prevention units and hsien hospitals will be increased, a better health service will be provided, and schools on the hsien level will be set to train midwives.

The Resist America, Aid Korea, Protect Homes and Country movements will be intensified and expanded. Education in patriotism will be intensified. All peoples of Tsinghai will be united. Local forces intended for wiping out bandits and special agents will be better trained. In the Wei-yuan, Hu-chu, Ta-t'ung Triangle, there still exist some bandit groups, and in the Kazakh villages of Tu-lan there are still numerous bandits and special agents (headed by Hu Sai-yin) who conspire with the Kazakhs to plunder. Although these counterrevolutionaries, long hidden in many areas, have received a serious setback, as long as imperialism and internal reactionary remnants exist, we must not relax our campaign against them.

We should incorporate the Resist America, Aid Korea Movement with the campaign against the counterrevolutionaries. While the people's patriotic feelings against imperialism are rising we should establish people's armed forces and local public security forces. We should recruit members from all nationality groups to join the local armed forces so that they can utilize their intimate knowledge of their own districts in the suppression of counterrevolutionary activities and the defense of their Fatherland. It is to be noted that such recruiting must be kept on a voluntary and selective basis. It must not be compulsory. The present militia units should be reorganized on the principle of unity among peoples so that they will be more responsive to the campaign against counterrevolutionary activities. The quality of the militia in the nomadic stock-farming areas should be improved through education.

Peasants who have received rent reduction are now pressing for land, while peoples in all regions are hoping for early land reform. Since local order has been restored and many leaders have been trained through experiences in the various movements launched in the past, we have decided to carry out land reform beginning in the winter of 1951 and ending in the spring of 1952 in five hsien and one shih (Min-ho, Lo-tu, Hu-chu, Ta-t'ung, Huang-chung, and Hsi-ning shih) where rent reduction has been in effect since 1950. These localities have a population of 920,000 persons who constitute slightly less than 77 percent of the total population in an agricultural region consisting of 12 hsien and shih. The total population of the agricultural area is 1,181,461. This is a task of utmost importance. We must be better prepared and must pursue the task properly and with sound leadership. In areas where rent reduction was not in effect in 1950, we must effect it in 1951.

To accomplish the above-mentioned objectives, we must raise the ideological level of our cadres and promote more leaders from among the various nationality groups. We should also keep our government uncorrupted on all levels and observe the essentials of democracy. In areas settled by peoples of different origin, we should encourage and strengthen regional autonomy. In short, we must unite all the native peoples to greater efforts.

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- 6 -

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